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Dedicated to making Michigan a no more homeless pets state.

Michigan Senate Agriculture Committee Meeting

June 14, 2012

SB 423 and 424

Thank you for the opportunity of providing testimony!

Prior to the Michigan House of Representatives approval to ban Michigan shelter and Class B Dealer gassing of homeless cats and dogs in 2010, the Michigan Pet Fund Alliance collected and provided to Chairperson Huckleberry over 2000 post cards signed by Michigan residents. These Michigan citizens expressed their desire to have gassing stopped in Michigan – NOW! At the same time Michigan Pet Fund Alliance posted on *YouTube* an actual video of a gas chamber operation at a shelter that was taken before they discontinued the practice. We wanted the House Agriculture Committee members to base their decision to ban gassing with a full understanding of the practice. We invited the viewing of the video for a realistic depiction. After three weeks, we were notified by *YouTube* that the video had been removed because it violated their guidelines for posting and was found to be **graphic, disturbing and cruel.**

The will of the voters with signed postcards, the understanding of the cruelty of gassing via video and the testimony at the hearing – including the science, EBI being the preferred method of euthanasia by AVMA, the cost of gassing being more expensive than EBI and the overall safety to workers, concluded with the House in 2010 voting to ban gassing. Unfortunately the session ran out before the Senate could act.

In October 2011 a nation-wide AP survey showed that 71% of Americans believe that shelters should **ONLY** euthanize animals that are too ill or too aggressive to be saved. It is safe to assume that Michiganders were represented in this survey. If the vast majority of Michiganders do not want shelters to euthanize homeless cats and dogs except in extreme circumstances, than certainly it is safe to assume they do **NOT WANT THEM GASED** and they do not want their tax dollars spent on gassing.

Now the Senate has an opportunity to ban gassing. The Michigan Pet Fund Alliance urges you pass SB 423 and 424.

Maya Angelou is quoted as saying...We do better when We know better. Having fully examined this issue --- we know better and are asking your wholehearted support to ban the gas chamber in Michigan for homeless cats and dogs. Make a moral proclamation that Michigan won't gas homeless pets.

Thank you.